

**To:** Hull, George[Hull.George@epa.gov]  
**From:** Thomas, Latosha  
**Sent:** Fri 8/14/2015 8:34:04 PM  
**Subject:** Re: APPROVED RESPONSES: Wall Street Journal RE: Superfund/Mining

Last part of what I was going to say was that there was another inquiry coming your way for CNN.

---

**From:** Thomas, Latosha on behalf of EOC Public Information  
**Sent:** Friday, August 14, 2015 4:32 PM  
**To:** Hull, George  
**Subject:** Fw: APPROVED RESPONSES: Wall Street Journal RE: Superfund/Mining

Hi George,

This has been approved. We have all the responses except the last three. OW was still working on that. There's another

---

**From:** Thomas, Latosha on behalf of EOC Public Information  
**Sent:** Friday, August 14, 2015 4:25 PM  
**To:** EOC\_Deputy\_Manager,  
**Subject:** Fw: APPROVED RESPONSES: Wall Street Journal RE: Superfund/Mining

Here it is. Thanks!

---

**From:** Thomas, Latosha on behalf of EOC Public Information  
**Sent:** Friday, August 14, 2015 4:17 PM  
**To:** EOC\_Manager,  
**Subject:** Fw: APPROVED RESPONSES: Wall Street Journal RE: Superfund/Mining

Hi,

Please see the approved response and let us know if this is ok to send out. Thanks!

---

**From:** Tyner, Lee on behalf of EOC OGC  
**Sent:** Friday, August 14, 2015 4:09 PM  
**To:** EOC Public Information  
**Subject:** Re: APPROVED RESPONSES: Wall Street Journal RE: Superfund/Mining

Looks ok. Lee

---

**From:** Thomas, Latosha on behalf of EOC Public Information  
**Sent:** Friday, August 14, 2015 3:59 PM  
**To:** EOC OGC  
**Cc:** EOC\_Manager,  
**Subject:** Fw: APPROVED RESPONSES: Wall Street Journal RE: Superfund/Mining

Hi,

Can you please review? This needs to go out ASAP. I already sent to EOC Manager before. Sorry. Thanks!

---

**From:** Thomas, Latosha on behalf of EOC Public Information  
**Sent:** Friday, August 14, 2015 3:44 PM  
**To:** EOC\_Manager,  
**Subject:** APPROVED RESPONSES: Wall Street Journal RE: Superfund/Mining

Hi again,

OW is working on the last few questions, but we have approved responses from OSWER. Please let me know if this is approved. Thanks!

**OUTLET:** Wall Street Journal

**REPORTER:** Amy Harder

**QUESTION:** Will President Obama declare emergencies in the affected states to open up federal disaster funding?

**RESPONSE:** Please refer to the White House for this response.

**QUESTION:** Regarding the hiatus into similar “field investigation work,” approximately how many mines does this affect?

**RESPONSE:** EPA is compiling a list of mining sites under EPA jurisdiction where the Administrator’s statement on field investigations would apply.

**QUESTION:** Does this hiatus just apply to hardrock mines, or other kinds too?

**RESPONSE:** This hiatus applies to hardrock mines on private lands where EPA has authority to address contamination and cleanup. The Federal Land Management Agencies (e.g., Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service and the Forest Service) have jurisdiction for characterizing and cleaning up mine sites on federal lands.

**QUESTION:** How much has EPA spent on cleaning up abandoned mines since, well, as far back as your data goes?

**RESPONSE:** The agency has used greater than \$4 billion for Superfund expenditures at hard rock mining sites.

**QUESTION:** Relatedly, do you have any estimates on costs to plug the rest?

**RESPONSE:** We don’t have an estimate to share at this time.

**QUESTION:** How much have you spent approximately on this particular cleanup?

**RESPONSE:** Region 8 is working on this...Contacts are Lisa McClain-Vanderpool and Laura Flynn Jenkins

**QUESTION:** We've learned that this particular EPA cleanup project to plug the mines in the Animas watershed, including Gold King & Sunnyside, cost \$1.5 million and began in July. Can you confirm that?

**RESPONSE:** Region 8 is working on this... Contacts are Lisa McClain-Vanderpool and Laura Flynn Jenkins

**QUESTION:** The owner of Gold King mine says EPA has not held Sunnyside and Kennross Corp responsible enough for the chronic leakage and this spill. What's your response to that?

**RESPONSE:** Region 8 is working on this... Contacts are Lisa McClain-Vanderpool and Laura Flynn Jenkins